

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) An outboard motor comprising:

a multicylinder engine having a plurality of combustion chambers and having a cylinder head disposed substantially vertically;

case means supporting a lower face of the engine and having an exhaust passage for guiding exhaust gas of the engine downward;

an exhaust manifold extending downward along a side face of the cylinder head and combining the exhaust gas discharged from the plurality of combustion chambers; and

an exhaust guide joined to the lower end of the exhaust manifold via a joining part and extending from the side face of the cylinder head to a lower face of the cylinder head so as to be connected to the exhaust passage;

wherein the portion of the exhaust manifold that is lower than the lowest combustion chamber is bent so as to be farther away from the cylinder head than other portions of the exhaust manifold as viewed from a front and rear direction of the outboard motor, thereby preventing the joining part from interfering with the cylinder head.

2. (Original) The outboard motor according to Claim 1 wherein the joining part joins the exhaust manifold and the exhaust guide via a seal, and a water jacket is provided around the seal.